

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed April 7, 2005. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's consideration of the Application. Claims 54-114 and 116-119 are canceled, and Claims 1-20, 22, 24-40, 42, 44-53, and 115 are pending. Applicants respectfully request full allowance of the Application.

Sufficiency of the Petition for Correction of Inventorship

The Office Action stated that the request for deletion of an inventor was deficient because the "request was not accompanied by the statement required under 37 CFR 1.48(b)(2)." However, 37 CFR 1.48(b) does not require a statement like the one required under 37 CFR 1.48(a)(2). Specifically, 37 CFR 1.48(b) states:

(b) Nonprovisional application—fewer inventors due to amendment or cancellation of claims. If the correct inventors are named in a nonprovisional application, and the prosecution of the nonprovisional application results in the amendment or cancellation of claims so that fewer than all of the currently named inventors are the actual inventors of the invention being claimed in the nonprovisional application, an amendment must be filed requesting deletion of the name or names of the person or persons who are not inventors of the invention being claimed. Amendment of the inventorship requires:

(1) A request, signed by a party set forth in § 1.33(b), to correct the inventorship that identifies the named inventor or inventors being deleted and acknowledges that the inventor's invention is no longer being claimed in the nonprovisional application; and

(2) The processing fee set forth in § 1.17(i).

Applicants respectfully submit that the Petition for Correction of Inventorship was properly filed under 37 CFR 1.48(b) as the correct inventors were named in the original nonprovisional application and cancellation of claims during prosecution resulted in fewer than all of the currently named inventors being actual inventors of the invention as claimed. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that the Petition for Correction of Inventorship of March 14, 2005 satisfies the requirements of 37 CFR 1.48(b).

Allowed Claims

Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for the allowance of Claims 1-20, 22, 24-40, 42, 44-53, and 115.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all the pending claims.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this case in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact Keiko Ichiye, the Attorney for Applicants, at the Examiner's convenience at (214) 953-6494.

Although Applicants believe no fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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